

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 26 and 27 are added. No new matter is added.

I. Address Change

Applicant has requested on three separate occasions that all further communications from the Patent Office be forwarded to Oliff & Berridge, PLC, in accordance with the Notice Regarding Power of Attorney which was mailed on March 1, 2002. These requests were included in communications to the Patent Office on November 12, 2002, May 12, 2003, and again on April 30, 2004. As the outstanding Office Action was again mailed to an incorrect address, Applicant now requests for the fourth time that the address change be noted and that all further communications be sent to Oliff & Berridge, PLC.

II. Allowed Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 1-14 and 17-25. Applicant submits that claims 15, 16, as well as new claims 26 and 27 are allowable for the reasons discussed below.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,337,530 to Nakamura. The rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant submits that U.S. Nakamura cannot form the basis of a claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as the invention was not patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States. However, as Nakamura is available under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), or the PCT version of Nakamura is available under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), Applicant responds to the rejection on that basis.

Applicant asserts that Nakamura does not disclose each and every feature recited in rejected claims 15 and 16. For example, Nakamura does not disclose a rotary electric machine comprising *inter alia* . . . a bolt having an enlarged diameter part for fixing the stator core to the housing by pressing one axial end portion of the stator core by the enlarged

diameter part, wherein the stator core has a cavity at a radially outermost axial end portion of the stator core, and the enlarged diameter part contacts the stator core in the cavity and the bolt is disposed on the housing located radially outside the stator core, wherein the housing further comprises . . . a bolt hole for receiving the bolt formed on the cylindrical portion of the housing, the bolt hole having a threaded portion that is shorter than an axial length of the stator core and is located within a radial outside of the stator core, as recited in claim 15.

Nakamura discloses an A/C generator for vehicles which prevents an occurrence of looseness of through bolts (col. 3, lines 35-40). As shown in Fig. 2 of Nakamura, a stator core 32 is welded in an axial direction along a surface of the recess 38 that extends the entire axial length of the stator core 32. The frames 4, 5 have an approximately bowl shape and are in contact in their ends 41, 51 on the opening side thereof with the axial ends of the stator core 32. A pair of flanges 42, 52 of the frames 4, 5 have a through-hole 52a through which a through-bolt 13 extends from one side of the frame to the other side of the frame (col. 6, lines 24-43). Thus, as clearly shown in Fig. 2 and described in the specification, the through-bolt 13 does not press an axial end portion of the stator core by the enlarged diameter part. Furthermore, as clearly shown Fig. 2, the enlarged diameter part of the through bolt 13 does not contact the stator core at any point. Rather, the enlarged part of the bolt contacts only the framed portion 52, as shown in Fig. 2 of Nakamura.

The Office Action also contends that Nakamura discloses a bolt hole 38 for receiving a bolt formed in the cylindrical portion of the housing. However, as is clearly defined in the specification, reference number 38 defines a plurality of approximately semicircular recesses formed in an axial direction in the outer peripheral surface of the stator core. The specification identifies reference number 52a as a bolt hole in the framed portion 52 that receives the bolt.

Finally, as clearly shown in Fig. 2 of Nakamura, the through-bolt 13 does not have a threaded portion that is shorter than an axial length of the stator core 32. Rather, the bolt extends from one end of the frame 52 through the other end of the frame 42 by way of the bolt tip 13a. If the threaded portion of the bolt were interpreted as only being the bolt tip portion 13a, Nakamura still would not disclose each and every feature recited in the claims, because the threaded portion of the bolt (bolt tip 13a) is not located within a radial outside area of the stator core. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

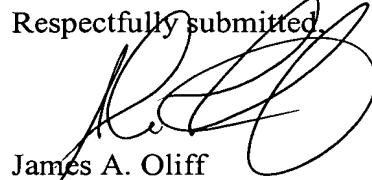
IV. New Claims

Applicant asserts that new claims 26 and 27 are allowable over the applied reference, as Nakamura does not disclose or suggest that the cavity is provided only at the radially outermost axial end portion of the stator core.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-27 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

John W. Fitzpatrick
Registration No. 41,018

JAO:JWF/al

Date: November 1, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

| |
|--|
| <p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p> |
|--|